

What is claimed is:

1. A water-decomposable absorbent article comprising a water-decomposable back layer, a water-decomposable and liquid-pervious surface layer, and a water-decomposable absorbent layer sandwiched between the back layer and the surface layer, wherein;

the absorbent layer is formed of at least one sheet of composite sheet of a water-soluble or water-swellaable polymer layer and a water-decomposable fibrous layer, of which the uppermost layer adjacent to the surface layer is the water-decomposable fibrous layer.

2. The water-decomposable absorbent article as set forth in claim 1, wherein the absorbent layer is formed of two or more composite sheets stacked to each other, in each of which the water-decomposable fibrous layer is located to face the side of the surface layer.

3. The water-decomposable absorbent article as set forth in claim 1, wherein the absorbent layer is formed of one of the composite sheet which is folded into two so that constituent layers thereof are in an order of water-decomposable fibrous layer, polymer layer, polymer layer and water-decomposable fibrous layer with the uppermost water-decomposable fibrous layer being adjacent to the surface layer.

4. The water-decomposable absorbent article as set forth in claim 1, wherein the water-soluble or water-swellaible polymer layer is a polyvinyl alcohol layer.

5. The water-decomposable absorbent article as set forth in claim 4, wherein the polyvinyl alcohol layer has a basis weight of at least 10 g/m<sup>2</sup>.

6. The water-decomposable absorbent article as set forth in claim 4, wherein the polyvinyl alcohol layer is in the form of a film which is laminated and integrated with the fibrous layer.

7. The water-decomposable absorbent article as set forth in claim 1, wherein an additional absorbent layer that differs from the composite sheet is provided between the composite sheet and the surface layer.

8. A water-decomposable absorbent article comprising a water-decomposable back layer, a water-decomposable and liquid-pervious surface layer, and a water-decomposable absorbent layer sandwiched between the back layer and the surface layer, wherein;

the absorbent layer includes two water-decomposable

fibrous layers and a water-soluble or water-swellaable polymer layer sandwiched between the water-decomposable fibrous layers.

9. The water-decomposable absorbent article as set forth in claim 8, wherein the water-soluble or water-swellaable polymer layer is a film of polyvinyl alcohol.

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